

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A bracing arrangement with overload protection comprising:

[[-]] a first element to be braced-(1),

[[-]] a second element to be braced-(2) ~~which is to be braced~~ against the first element (1) and

[[-]] a bracing bolt (3) ~~for~~ bracing the first and second elements, characterized by

[[-]] a sleeve-(4), which is braced against the second element to be braced-(2) with the bracing bolt (3) and which goes through the first element to be braced-(1), and

[[-]] a sleeve tensioning device-(5), which engages the sleeve-(4) and braces the first element to be braced (1) against the second element to be braced (2),

[[-]] whereby the sleeve (4) is released to a pre-specified extent (4f') by means of the sleeve tensioning device (5) and

[[-]] whereby exceeding the operating force that ~~keep~~ separates the first and second elements (1, 2) ~~separate~~ from each other beyond a an operating force threshold leads to relaxation of the sleeve-(4) relative to the bracing by the bracing bolt-(3) and to the consequential breaking of the bracing bolt-(3).

2. (Currently amended) The bracing arrangement according to claim 1, in which the bracing bolt (3) is strained up to a pre-specified extent -(3f) within its range up to the yielding point.

3. (Currently amended) The bracing arrangement according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the bracing bolt (3) is more elastic than the sleeve-(4).

4. (Currently amended) The bracing arrangement according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the sleeve (4) is more elastic than the first element to be braced-(1).

5. (Currently amended) The bracing arrangement according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the bracing bolt-(3) is a stud (3) with a screw thread (3a) for screwing it into ~~the~~ a bore with an internal thread (2a) of the second element to be braced-(2).

Appl. No. : 10/549,651
Filed : September 16, 2005

6. (Currently amended) The bracing arrangement according to ~~one of the preceding claims claim 1~~, in which the sleeve (4) has an external screw thread (4b) for screwing onto the sleeve tensioning element(5) with an internal thread-(5a).

7. (Currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for bracing ~~both the at least two~~ elements to be braced ~~-(1, 2)-~~ with the help of a bracing bolt-(3), a sleeve (4) and a sleeve tensioning device (5), ~~in particular with a bracing arrangement according to one of the preceding claims, involving the steps comprising:~~

[[-]] bracing of the sleeve (4) by means of the bracing bolt (3) against the second element to be braced (2), whereby the bracing bolt (3) compresses the sleeve (4),

[[-]] bracing of the first element to be braced (1) on the second element to be braced (2) ~~through bracing~~ with the sleeve tensioning device (5), whereby the sleeve tensioning device (5) is braced with engagement with the sleeve (4) projecting through the first element (1) to be braced, in such a manner that the sleeve (4) is relaxed relative to the preceding compression up to a pre-specified extent of release (4f'),

[[-]] ~~so that~~wherein an operating force, which moves the first and the second elements (1, 2) to be braced in mutually opposite directions, leads, above a pre-specified threshold value, to a complete release of the sleeve (4) and to the breaking of the bracing bolt (3).

8. (Currently amended) The bracing bolt (3) and sleeve (4) as described above in conjunction with the ~~for use in a bracing arrangement according to one of the claims 1-5 claim 1 or in connection with the method according to claim 6, whereby~~ wherein the bracing bolt (3) is made of a more elastic material than the sleeve (4).

9. (Currently amended) The bracing ~~Bracing~~ bolt (3) and sleeve (4) according to claim 8, whereby a force, which stretches the bracing bolt (3) to a pre-specified extent, compresses the sleeve (4) in the opposite direction to a lesser extent.